



Performance Guide: *The Nutcracker Returns 2026*

BA Studios' winter production *The Nutcracker Returns* will be held on **Friday and Saturday, December 18th & 19th at the Flowing Wells High School Auditorium** (3725 N Flowing Wells Rd, Tucson, AZ 85705).

The dancers will be rehearsing incredibly hard and THIS guide will provide all the information YOU need to prepare you and your child for the semester.

****Parents and Dancers: Please read this guide closely and keep it handy for reference!**

PRE-THEATER REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Two MANDATORY *Nutcracker Returns* rehearsals for ALL performers will be on Saturday, December 5th & 12th 9:30am to approx. 12:30pm at BA Studios. Have your dancer wear normal dance class attire and aim to arrive **15 minutes** early to ensure rehearsal begins exactly at 9:30am. Preschool Parents, we will run their dance first, so they may be excused right away!

In accordance to the registration form, if your dancer(s) miss a mandatory rehearsal there is a **\$25 Absence Fee** per dancer, per rehearsal.

PERFORMANCE WEEK SCHEDULE

Two mandatory dress rehearsals Tuesday & Thursday December 15th and 17th at Flowing Wells High School for ALL performers.

Have your dancer arrive at rehearsals with show hair and makeup done, wearing their dance class attire. Bring costumes separately in a costume garment bag to change into at the theater.

Parents are not allowed in the auditorium (unless they are volunteering) during rehearsals. This is to ensure a smooth and efficient rehearsal.

Preschool Parents: For the shows (NOT the dress rehearsals):

1. You will bring your **dancer backstage at 6:45pm.** to the assigned Preschool Dressing Room.
2. Preschoolers will change into costume, go to the stage and perform their dance.
3. You will have a parent or guardian collect your Preschool Dancer immediately following their dance.
4. Preschoolers will go back to the auditorium after they perform their dance. Preschoolers will **not** stay in the dressing rooms during the shows.

DRESS REHEARSAL SCHEDULE for ALL DANCERS:

- **Tuesday, December 15th, at Flowing Wells High School Auditorium, 6:00p.m.- 9:30 p.m. - **MANDATORY****
- **Wednesday, December 16th, Soloist Rehearsal at BA Studios (Time TBD)**
- **Thursday, December 17th: at Flowing Wells High School Auditorium, 4:30p.m.- 7:30 p.m. - **MANDATORY****

The week of show there are **no regularly scheduled classes at the studio**, only full cast rehearsals of the show.

Preschool Parents:

- **Studio Rehearsals:** We will run their dance FIRST.
- **Theater Rehearsals and Show:** We will run the show in order. The Preschool dance is second in the show and they will be done within the first half-hour of rehearsals.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE for ALL DANCERS:

- **Friday, December 18th, Flowing Wells High School Auditorium, 4:45 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday, December 19th, Flowing Wells High School Auditorium, 4:45 p.m.-9:00 p.m.**

The schedule for performances is as follows:

4:45 pm: Youth Dancers (ages 13-17) arrive at the theater.

5:15-6:00 pm: Youth Dancers (ages 13-17) join technique class on stage.

6:00 pm: Youth Dancers (ages 6-12) arrive at the theater.

6:00 pm: Lobby doors open for guests.

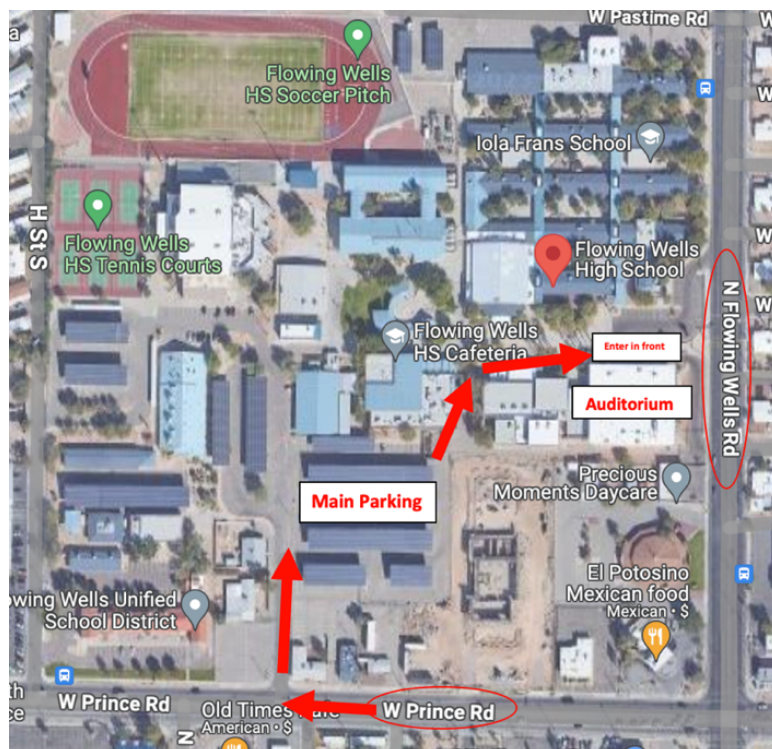
6:15 pm: Auditorium doors open for guests.

6:45 pm: Preschool Dancers (ages 3-6) arrive at the theater and are dropped off backstage.

7:00 pm: *Nutcracker Returns (Show runtime is about 2 hours with the fifteen-minute intermission.)*

****Note: Adult dancers are welcome to join the technique class at 5:15pm, otherwise call time is at 6:00pm.**

Theater Parking:

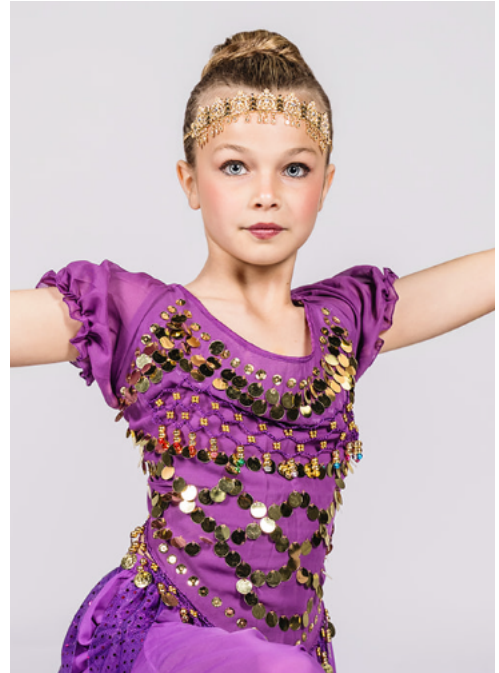


HAIR & MAKE UP:

Stage makeup is required to prevent faces from appearing washed out under the theater's lighting. Consider it a heavier application of everyday makeup. Younger dancers only require natural eyeshadow, blush, mascara and lip color. Please ask an instructor if you need assistance.

Makeup Tips & Examples for Youth/Adult Dancers:

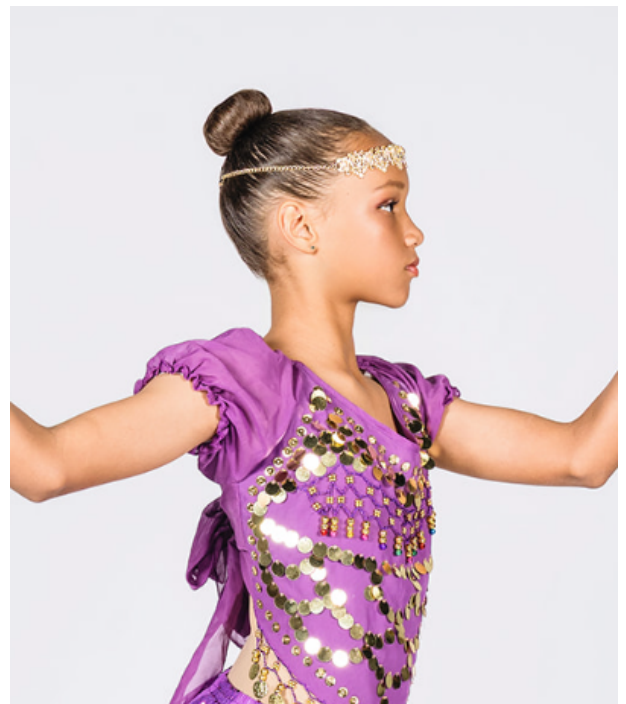
- Skin colored cream foundation, tinted moisturizer or light powder
- Light pink blush
- Eyeshadow palette with nude shades, brown or maybe a highlight/white shade
- Black or brown eyeliner pencil (optional)
- Black or brown mascara
- False eyelashes (optional)
- Lipstick (pink, nude or soft red - a simple lip gloss works too!)
- Setting spray so the makeup lasts the whole show!



Hair must be styled so it is pulled out of your or your dancer's face. We want to see their beautiful smiles.

All youth and adult dancers need to have their hair in a bun at the crown of their head (high bun). Prepare to have extra hair ties, bobby pins, and hairspray on hand at all times!

Hair Examples:



COSTUMES:

In the coming weeks, **you will receive an individual Costume Fee Invoice email.** Costumes need to be purchased and picked up **no later than November 14th.** Your child will not receive their costume **until payment is completed.** Please do not let your child wear their costume outside of the rehearsals until after the show. We want the costumes looking clean and fresh.

Dancers will receive a new pair of tights with their costumes for show week. Performers also need a **NEW PAIR of dance shoes** for show week.

No jewelry allowed. We don't want anything falling off during the show. This includes long necklaces, large earrings, watches, bracelets, permanent jewelry, etc.

UNDERGARMENTS:

There will be costume changes backstage! ALL female dancers need a nude leotard underneath their costumes at all times to make quick changes. You can purchase one online or through the studio!

ALL male dancers need black shorts and a white t-shirt or tank top underneath their costumes at all times to make quick changes backstage.

Extra Items to Bring:

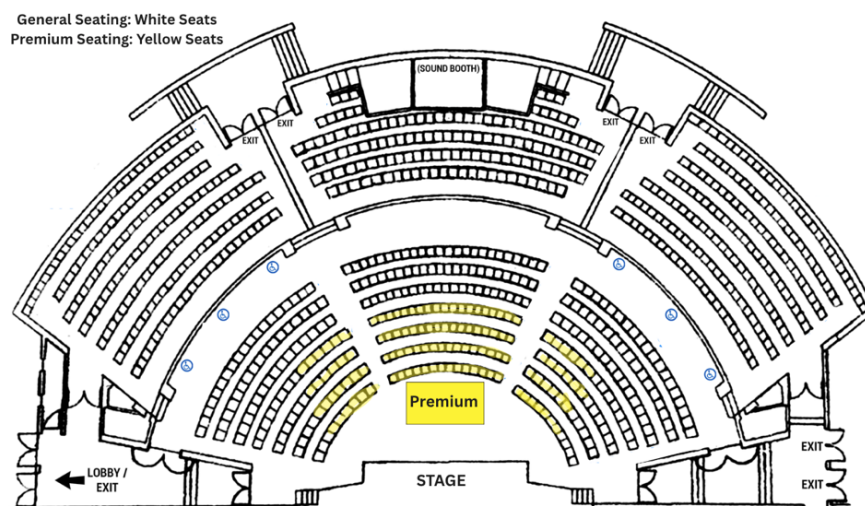
1. Water. All other beverages are prohibited in the theater during rehearsal or performance. **No food, drinks (other than water), or gum allowed.**
2. Books, quiet-time games, small blankets or pillows to entertain the kiddos while they aren't on stage.
3. Toiletries for last minute hair and makeup touch-ups.

TICKETS: Available at ba-studios.com/events

- **Ticket Pre-Sale:** Sept. 27th- Oct. 3rd: General Seating \$20, Premium Seating \$30
- **Regular Ticket Sale:** Oct. 4th- December 17th: General Seating \$25, Premium Seating \$30
- **Show Days Ticket Sale:** December 18th & 19th: General Seating \$30, Premium Seating \$35

Note: *ALL seating is reserved.* You will pick your assigned seats when you purchase tickets. **Premium Seating will not be part of the presale pricing.**

FLOWING WELLS HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM SEATING



PROGRAM ADVERTISING: Advertise your business in our upcoming production program!

1. **Create your business advertisement** and email a pdf or jpeg to bastudiosaz@gmail.com. Make the Email Subject Line: **"Program Advertisement"**
2. **The space is a digital half-page. (Estimated to reach 450-500 guests).**
3. **The price for the advertisement is donation based** – you pick the donation towards the studio! Pay for your advertisement at the studio via cash, card, Zelle or ask for an emailed invoice.
4. Enjoy seeing your business promoted in our digital program at the show!

SHOW & REHEARSAL ETTIQUETTE:

Personal photography and videography are **not** allowed during performances. Professional photography and videography services will be provided by **Sherri Graves Photography** (sherrigraves.com). A link with these photos and videos will be emailed out after the performance.

Talk to your little performer about how they are feeling with the upcoming shows. Remind them that it's okay to feel nervous or have 'butterflies in their belly.' It means they are excited and care about the show. Talk to them about eating healthy meals the week of, staying hydrated, and getting extra sleep.

Encourage them to take charge by double checking their dance bag is packed with costume pieces, dance shoes, water bottles, a small rehearsal snack, and extra toiletries for backstage. Encourage them to practice their steps at home, and don't forget to tell them the reason why they are doing this... **TO HAVE FUN!** No matter what happens on stage, we want them smiling and having an unforgettable experience.

Parents, it's up to YOU to make sure they are prepared and arrive to **ALL the rehearsals on time and dressed!** We want to make sure YOU feel prepared, you know what to expect, and that your child is ready for the big performance.

SHOW FLOWERS:

BA Studios collaborates with [Casas Adobes Flower Shop](#) for our productions. Casas Adobes Flower Shop creates themed bouquets tailored to our shows and offers exclusive deals for our BA families and guests!

Why should I buy flowers?

- The designs are handmade by a local small business in Tucson.
- No stress at the last minute to purchase flowers for your dancers.
- **You don't have to carry flowers in your car! These flowers will be delivered to the theater on show days and can be picked up in the lobby!**
- Also, they are gorgeous fresh flowers.

*****Pictures of the flower packages and how to order will be emailed out at a later date.***

SHOW SHIRTS:

Custom show shirts are available for dancers, families, and guests to purchase. These shirts are not required for show, but many dancers love to wear them to rehearsals, at school or work, as warm ups at the theater and then keep them for memorabilia. Some parents like to wear them while volunteering at the show! We will have toddler, youth, and adult sizes available. **Deadline for orders is Sept. 21st.**

*****Pictures of the show shirts and how to order will be emailed out at a later date.***

STUDIO PHOTOSHOOT

We are thrilled to announce that the incredibly talented **Sherri Graves** is coming to BA Studios for an exclusive professional portrait session. This is your chance to capture your dancer's hard work, grace, and personality with high-end, professional photography.

- **When:** Saturday, November 21 | 8am – 4pm (You will sign up for a 10-minute session)
- **Where:** BA Studios
- **Price:** \$40 per 10-minute slot. This includes your professional photo session **PLUS** high-resolution digital prints of your dancer!

Want something for your walls? You have the option to order professional prints, custom albums, or stunning canvases directly through [Sherri's website](#).

- **Prep:** Dancers should arrive 15-minutes BEFORE their selected time block with **show-ready hair and makeup**, carrying their costumes in their dance bag.
- **Payment:** Quick and easy! Pay at the shoot, at the front desk, or via the emailed invoice.
- **Booking:** Keep an eye on your inbox! We will send out a sign-up link soon so you can grab your time slot between 8am and 4pm.



Please note: While we'd love to see everyone there, this is an optional event.

If you are late to your timeslot you will only have the remaining time in your session to complete your photos. If you miss your timeslot, you will not be permitted to enter. Photoshoot payments are non-refundable. Payments must be made before your selected time slot.

MOVIE NIGHT AT BA STUDIOS:

We will be hosting a **movie night** at the studio. These funds go towards renting the theater facility for our production, *The Nutcracker Returns*. This is also a great opportunity to build excitement for the holiday season!

The studio will be decorated for the holiday season and tables will be set to serve popcorn, cookies and hot cocoa. You and your guests can wear comfy PJs and bring blankets and pillows. We will set up a large screen to project a showing of *Elf*.

The event is Saturday, November 21 from 6-8pm. This is not a required event. You and your guests can buy tickets online at ba-studios.com/events.

A festive movie night poster for BA Studios. The background is dark blue with white snowflakes and a red curtain at the top. In the center, there's a red cup with a straw, a bucket of popcorn with a 'POP CORN' logo, a clapperboard, a film reel, and a red Santa hat. Below these items is a yellow sign with a red border and lights that reads 'BA STUDIOS MOVIE NIGHT'. Below the sign, the text 'Celebrate the season with a showing of Elf at BA Studios.' is displayed. Further down, it says 'Cookies, cocoa & popcorn will be provided. Wear pjs and feel free to bring blankets and pillows.' The date and time 'Nov. 21, 2026 6-8pm' are listed, followed by the ticket purchase link 'Purchase tickets at ba-studios.com/events'.

Flowing Wells High School: TUCSON DANCE SHOWCASE

Beginner and Intermediate Hip Hop; Beginner, Intermediate and Adult Pom; and Intermediate Contemporary dancers have been invited to perform at the Flowing Wells High School Tucson Dance Showcase. There is no performance fee, but there is a costume fee. (Dancers will keep the costumes after the show.) The performance date is TBA.

We will change into costumes and warm up at Flowing Wells. Please come with hair and makeup already done. More details will be emailed out at a later date.

If you or your child cannot attend this performance, please email bastudiosaz@gmail.com or speak with us at the studio ASAP.



Adult Dancers: Additional Info

- If you'd like to perform, **please email us confirming your commitment to our shows by August 21st.**
- There are potentially two ballet, one jazz, one contemporary, one hip hop and one pom dance piece (depending on the classes you attend).
- There is a base **Performance Fee of \$69.** There are additional fees if you are performing a lead, small group, or soloist role.
- If you are performing, you are committing to **both production nights.**
- There will be a separate dressing room for the adult dancers backstage. A reminder that when you are backstage you are either onstage or in your dressing room. It becomes chaotic with the little ones when extra bodies are floating around.
- **We ask you to come to as many classes and studio rehearsals as possible.** If you miss more than 50% of rehearsals, we will ask you to not perform for your safety. **There are two full cast rehearsals at the studio and two full dress rehearsals at the Flowing Wells theater that are MANDATORY.** Absence fees will be enforced if you miss any of the mandatory rehearsals (\$25 per rehearsal).
- **We ask that you purchase and use a costume garment bag with your name on it to bring your costumes to the theater.** There are many available on Amazon, or you can purchase one through the studio.

Preschool Dancers: Additional Info

Preschool Parents:

- **Studio Rehearsals:** We will run their dance FIRST.
- **Theater Rehearsals and Show:** We will run the show in order. The preschool dance is second in the show and they will be done within the first half-hour of rehearsals.

Show Days (NOT the dress rehearsals):

1. You will bring your dancer backstage at 6:45p.m. to the assigned Preschool Dressing Room.
2. Preschoolers will change into costume, go to the stage and perform their dance.
3. You will have a parent or guardian collect your Preschool Dancer immediately following their dance.
4. Preschoolers will go back to the auditorium after they perform their dance.

Preschoolers will **not** stay in the dressing rooms during the shows.

- ☐ **Bring your dancer to the mandatory full cast rehearsals.** We want them getting used to being around the other dancers and being on stage and having many eyes on them while they perform. At the studio rehearsals, they will run their dance right away so they won't be there very long!
- ☐ **Hair must be pulled back out of their face.** We encourage a small bun. Since some dancers have very short hair, just make sure it's securely clipped and sprayed back.
- ☐ **Costumes:** All preschoolers will need:
 - **Costume and pink tights (covered by costume fee and purchased by the studio)**
 - **A new clean pair of pink ballet slippers**
 - **Costume Garment Bag** (Costumes must be stored in a garment bag. This helps keep all costume pieces organized and clean.)



Nutcracker Returns 2026

Calendar of Events

So, that was a lot of information... Here's a handy calendar to print out and cross off as we complete our events!

Aug. 3rd	<i>Fall/Winter semester Youth dance classes begin.</i>
Aug. 15th	<i>Fall/Winter semester Preschool dance classes begin.</i>
Sept. 7th	No Youth Dance classes on Labor Day
Oct. 11th-17th	Fall Break. No Youth Dance Classes.
TBD	Flowing Wells Tucson Dance Showcase
Nov. 11th	No Youth Dance classes on Veterans Day.
Nov. 14th	Last Day of Preschool Dance Classes
Nov. 21st	Dancer Photo Shoot 8:00a.m.-4:00p.m. (Available timeslots will be emailed out at a later date) at BA Studios Movie Night at BA Studios 6:00pm-8:00pm
Nov 25th -28th	Thanksgiving Break. No Youth Dance Classes.
Dec. 5th	<i>Nutcracker Returns</i> Full Cast Rehearsal 9:30 a.m.- 12:30p.m. at BA Studios – MANDATORY
Dec. 11th	Last Day of Youth Dance Classes
Dec. 12th	<i>Nutcracker Returns</i> Full Cast Rehearsal 9:30 a.m.- 12:30p.m. at BA Studios – MANDATORY
Dec. 15^h	<i>Nutcracker Returns</i> Full Cast Rehearsal 6:00p.m.- 9:30p.m. at BA Studios - MANDATORY
Dec. 17th	Full <i>Nutcracker Returns</i> Cast Dress Rehearsal at Flowing Wells High School 4:30- 7:30pm - MANDATORY
Dec. 18th	Nutcracker Returns Show 7:00p.m. (Check your arrival time) at Flowing Wells High School Auditorium
Dec. 19th	Nutcracker Returns Show 7:00p.m. (Check your arrival time) at Flowing Wells High School Auditorium
Dec. 21st-Jan 2nd	<i>No Dance Classes. Enjoy Winter Break!</i>
Jan. 11th	Spring Semester Classes Begin
June 1st-5th	<i>Once Upon A Dream</i> show week

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING TO DRESS REHEARSAL & SHOW DAY?

Print this handy checklist to help your dancer remember what to pack in their dance bag!

- Clean show tights
- Nude leotard undergarment
- Warm-ups to wear over nude leotard
(*Nutcracker Returns* show shirt)
- Cozy jacket to wear in the cold theater
- Clean pink ballet shoes, white hip-hop/pom sneakers and/or tan jazz shoes
- Bobby pins
- Hairspray
- Water bottle
- Healthy snacks for energy
- Costume(s) in costume bag
- Show hairpiece(s)
- Makeup bag